



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

3 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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SUBJECT : Development of Intensified Laos/Cambodia Collection


REFERENCE : "Intensified Collection Against Logistics Networks Supporting Communist Activity in South Vietnam," 18 July 1969, SC No. 05735/69

1. Reference memorandum prepared by an ad hoc interagency task force, chaired by CIA, reviewed in detail for Dr. Kissinger all collection activities targetted against Vietnamese Communist logistic support activities in Laos and Cambodia. The response to his request was framed without inhibiting reference to cost factors, current political strictures on certain forms of activity and/or activities in certain areas, or questions of priority allocation of scarce or long-lead time assets. The recommendations of the task force constituted, in effect, a catalogue of technically feasible actions that needed to be taken to improve our knowledge of the Vietnamese Communists' logistics support system.

2. Those elements of the recommendations that did not require higher level approval have already been implemented. However, no action was taken regarding policy decisions and allocation of priorities which would be required before a list of approved actions could be translated into a specific series of operational plans. Dr. Kissinger has now directed that the task force pinpoint those policy decisions that will have to be made on rules of engagement, costs, priiroities, and asset allocation. This process will also require consultation with our military and civilian colleagues in the field who eventually will be called upon to execute any plans or programs approved in Washington.

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3. It is requested that all members of the ad hoc task force review reference memorandum in light of overall collection priorities with the view of developing an implementing paper for Dr. Kissinger. The task force will reconvene on 8 December 1969 at 1430, CIA Headquarters, Langley, Room 6F19, for the purpose of discussing new draft contributions from those agencies which prepared inputs to the reference. Policy restrictions, rules of engagement, budgetary factors, availability of assets, relative priorities, and estimated lead-time for implementation of collection should be considered in developing the contributions.


Acting Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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